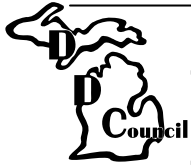


The



Monday Update

February 2007

Published by the
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council,
1033 S. Washington, Lansing, MI 48910
www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil

What is happening in your community?

Disabilities awareness will be raised in state program in March

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The Council has asked Gov. Granholm to officially declare it in Michigan as well.

To help promote awareness in addition to the Governor's proclamation, a general press release will be issued to the media through the Department of Community Health.

To better promote the month in the media, local programs and activities tied into the event will be mentioned in news releases to be distributed across the state. We need to know what is planned in local communities.

Send us your plans!

Send your Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month plans to the Council so they can be promoted in state and local media.

We can create a news release for your local media and send it to the newspapers and radio and television stations, or give copies to you to distribute yourself.

We need your news. Please phone/mail/e-mail/fax your news to Rick Van Horn at the Council office. Contact him at:

Phone: 517-334-7288

Fax: 517-334-7353

Mail: 1033 S. Washington, Lansing, 48910

Email: vanhornr@michigan.gov.

The deadline for getting this local activity information to us is Feb. 15, 2007!

Council renews awards program

The DD Council has renewed its Awards Program.

Purpose of the program is to highlight the contributions made for and by persons with developmental disabilities. The program is designed to be an important asset to the support and encouragement of Council activities.

Successful organizations need a forum that recognizes outstanding members and supporters. These annual awards will honor those individuals who have promoted Council interests and whose efforts provide a greater recognition of the work of the Council in the broader community.

The new edition of this program will present awards in three categories:

- **Unsung Advocate**
- **Diversity Outreach**
- **RICC That Makes a Difference**

The forms were sent to all those on the Monday Update list in January, along with an email copy to RICCs. Category descriptions are:

UNSUNG ADVOCATE - Awarded to a person or group not directly affiliated with the Council, but who has worked beyond the requirements of any standing appointment or grant award.

RICC THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE AWARD - Presented to Regional Interagency Consumer Council that demonstrates substantial, meaningful consumer involvement in useful community activities and RICC-generated projects, provides the RICC with community visibility and improves the community with coalition building that supports persons with developmental disabilities.

DIVERSITY OUTREACH AWARD - Presented to an individual or group, not necessarily directly related to the Council, who has demonstrated success and leadership in outreach and recruiting more people with developmental disabilities from minority cultures within the state of Michigan.

Deadline for nomination forms to be returned to the Council office is Feb. 16, 2007.

Each of the three nominating forms requires answers to six key questions in addition to the signature of the person doing the nominating. An awards committee staffed by Council members will review nominations and make the final determinations.

Legislature adds new members, 32 in the House, seven in the Senate

Following the November elections, the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives have a number of new members.

There are 32 new House members and seven new members of the Senate. All of the seven new senators have served as state representatives previously.

Term limits and a couple of defeats have given a new look to the two law-making bodies, and the House now has a Democratic majority.



For this 2007 session, new and old members alike will be tackling the problem with the state's budget. Even though this is an off-year

for statewide elections, there is still a lot of work to be done. Remember, it's important that your legislator hear from you on issues concerning people with disabilities.

In both the House and Senate, committees are an important part of their activities. Here are some House committees whose work is important to people with disabilities. They are listed along with their members and members' district numbers:

Appropriations: George Cushingberry, Jr. (Chair – 8), Matthew Gillard (Vice Chair - 106), Joan Bauer (68), Doug Bennett (92), Pam Byrnes (52), Marsha Cheeks (6), John Espinoza (83), Lee Gonzales (49), Richard Hammel (48), Morris Hood III (11), Shanelle Jackson (9), Michael Lahti (110), Richard LeBlanc (18), Gary McDowell (also chairs Department of Community Health Subcommittee - 107), Michael Sak (76), Alma Smith (54), Dudley Spade (57) and Aldo Vagnozzi (37).

Education: Tim Melton (Chair – 29), Mary Valentine (Vice Chair – 91), Kathy Angerer (55), Terry Brown (84), Barb Byrum (67), Brenda Clack (34), Marc Corriveau (20), Robert Dean (75), Hoon-Yung Hopgood (22), Steven Lindberg (109), Andy Meisner (27), Fred Miller (31), Gino Polidori (15) and Bettie Cook Scott (3).

Families and Children Services: Brenda Clack (Chair - 34), Robert Dean (Vice Chair - 75), Frank Accavitti, Jr. (42), Ted Hammon (50) and Lisa Wojno (28).

Health Policy: Kathy Angerer (Chair - 55), Mike Simpson (Vice Chair - 65), Barb Byrum (67), Brenda Clack (34), Marc Corriveau (20), Marie Donigan (26), Ted Hammon (50), Robert Jones (60), Mary Valentine (91) and Lisa Wojno (28).

Judiciary: Paul Condino (Chair - 35), Andy Coulouris (Vice Chair - 95), Steve Bieda (25), Marc Corriveau (20), Mark Meadows (69), Andy Meisner (27), Bettie Cook Scott (3), Virgil Smith (7) and Rebekah Warren (53).

Labor: Fred Miller (Chair - 31), Mark Meadows (Vice Chair – 69), Steve Bieda (25), Bob Constan (16), Barbara Farrah (13), Hoon-Yung Hopgood (22) and Steven Lindberg (109).

New Economy and Quality of Life: Ed Clemente (Chair - 14), Gabe Leland (Vice Chair - 10), Brenda Clack (34), Andy Meisner (27) and Tim Melton (29).

Senior Health, Security and Retirement: Robert Jones (Chair - 60), Bob Constan (Vice Chair - 16), Hoon-Yung Hopgood (22), LaMar Lemmons Jr. (2) and Rebekah Warren (53).

Tax Policy: Steve Bieda (Chair - 25), Paul Condino (Vice Chair - 35), Barbara Farrah (13), Robert Jones (60), Jeff Mayes (96), Andy Meisner (27), Tim Melton (29), Joel Sheltrown (103), Rebekah Warren (53) and Coleman Young II (4).

Transportation: Hopgood (C), Griffin (VC), Accavitti, Bieda, Donigan, Ebli, Leland, Mayes, Miller and Young.

Rep. Andy Dillon is speaker of the House. The Speaker Pro Tempore and Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore are also elected by, and from, the House members. They preside when the Speaker is absent or wishes to participate in debate on the House floor.

As for the Senate, it is still controlled by the Republicans. Friends of people with disabilities in the Senate might include Sen. Tom George, chair of the Health Policy Committee, Sen. Gilda Jacobs, who is very knowledgeable on disability issues, Sen. Bruce Patterson, Sen. Tony Stamas, and a new senator, John Gleason. Until he was elected in November, Sen. Gleason served Michigan as a state representative and very active in disability issues.

Some key Senate committees and their members:

Appropriations: Ron Jelinek (Chair), John Pappageorge (Vice Chair), Bill Hardiman, Roger Kahn, Alan Cropsey, Valde Garcia, Tom George, Mark Jansen, Cameron S. Brown, Michelle A. McManus, Tony Stamas, Michael Switalski, Glenn Anderson, Jim Barcia, Liz Brater, Deborah Cherry, Irma Clark-Coleman, and Martha Scott.

Families & Human Services: Mark Jansen (Chair), Bill Hardiman (Vice Chair), and Glida Jacobs.

Health Policy: Tom George (Chair), Bruce Patterson (Vice Chair), Alan Sanborn, Jason Allen, Hansen Clarke, John Gleason, and Gilda Jacobs.

Judiciary: Wayne Kulpers (Chair), Alan Cropsey (Vice Chair), Alan Sanborn, Bruce Patterson, Gretchen Whitmer, Hansen Clarke, and Michael Prusi.

Local, Urban & State Affairs: Gerald Van Woerkom (Chair), Patricia Birkholz (Vice Chair), Jason Allen, John Gleason, and Raymond E. Basham.

Senior Citizens & Veterans Affairs: Jason Allen (Chair), John Pappageorge (Vice Chair), Valde Garcia, Dennis Olshove, and Raymond E. Basham.

Transportation: Jud Gilbert (Chair), Roger Kahn (Vice Chair), Gerald Van Woerkom, Raymond E. Basham, and John Gleason.

It is very important that members of the disability community and advocates make their feelings and needs known to the Legislature as its members try to solve the money shortages that have created the budget problems.

Lawmakers need to know the issues and how they affect people with disabilities. What works best? Personal stories are very effective. This gives an issue depth and personality. It is great way to educate those newly-elected members.

If a person with disabilities cannot get to the doctor because there is no public transit in his or her community, legislators should know about that.....directly from the person who has the transit problem. Such a personal experience is much more effective than just telling lawmakers there is a “transportation problem in Michigan.”

Medicaid and home help are two money issues that legislators should be aware of as they work out budget problems.

Where is the best place to send a message to your senator and representative....right back home in his or her district. Invite them to RICC meetings, or town hall gatherings so they can hear the issues first hand. Those new legislators are hungry for information about the issues that face

people with disabilities on a daily basis. They need to know, firsthand, how changes in the budget can affect people with disabilities.

Did the person you voted for back in November win the election? Call the local office and congratulate them. Ask to meet with them or their aide. Study the issues you want to discuss before you talk with them. Be prepared. Express in clear terms your concern about possible budget cuts and other issues that affect your life.

Keep in touch!

You can also, write them letters, either in the old-fashion way on paper, or by email. Don't forget to contact your federal office holders as well. Your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives and the two U.S. senators that represent Michigan also have offices in their districts and across the state. Call those offices and set up a meeting for a time when they are back in Michigan.

In all cases, you may be directed to meet with a staff member. This is not a brush-off or an indication the lawmaker is not interested. In fact, with some senators and representatives, your message may have more impact if you meet with a staff member; it is his or her job to directly address the issues affecting the boss. They may be the people who tell the lawmaker what is, and what is not, important, what issues to follow and what items to put aside.

Is an independent budget for you?

In the last issue of Monday Update, you'll remember there was a story about people with disabilities getting their own independent support coordinators.

The article said you start with using the principles of self-determination and person-centered planning. That first article highlighted the independent supports coordinator, which is one tool you may use to move towards greater self-determination.

Self-determination is based on the belief that you have the freedom to define your life and make meaningful choices regarding your life. With self-

determination, you also have the chance to direct the services and supports you need to pursue that life.

When you need supports through the public mental health system, you can develop an individual plan of service identifying your goals and supports you need. This is done through a person-centered process.

Providing services and supports

In this article, we will look at another important tool of self-determination....the individual budget. It is the funding authorized to provide services and supports in your individual plan of service. It may also include all other areas of your life in which you spend money.

Some people choose not to establish a budget, but for those who do, it's another step on the exciting road to an independent life. You determine the services and supports you need and you develop an individual budget through the person-centered planning process with the help of your friends, family and allies.

Actually, the individual budget for a person with developmental disabilities is fairly new when it comes to supports and services. It is proving to be a very effective way of providing knowledge and control to people who have been denied information or control forever. That is because the funds intended for your supports are used best when you control them. By directing how you get support and choosing who provides you support, you can better direct the course of your life.

Using an individual budget means you are taking responsibility, not only for your independent life, but also for the dollars you have for living supports. Having authority over an individual budget means having responsibility, but it does not mean you have to do it alone.

Individual budgets identify the amount of service funding and personal income available. As mentioned, developing a budget is part of the person-centered planning process and should involve the person with disabilities and their freely-chosen family and friends. You are not by any means alone when it comes to designing an individual budget.

The budget is controlled by the person and can be easily changed through your person-centered planning process and identified in your individual plan of service.

A budget sheet is not intimidating at all and you will become familiar with its different parts as you develop it. Basically, it's a paper that identifies everything that's in your plan of service and, a place where you record your spending....simple as that. Transportation, rent or mortgage, household goods, telephone, cost for services.....pretty basic items make up your budget sheet.

Keeping track...with some help

How much are you going to spend on your telephone bill each month for instance? Twenty dollars? Put it down in the budget. Anytime there is a question when you're creating your budget, you'll have expert help from individuals who've have lots of experience assisting others with their budgets.

How do you get an individual budget? Start by getting more information on self-determination.

It says in the state's guidelines that the local Community Mental Health Services Program will provide development "of an individual budget....in conjunction with development of a plan of speciality mental health services and supports, using a person-centered planning process." And, ".....a copy of the individual budget must be provided to the consumer prior to the onset of a self-determination arrangement."

Still, you may first wish to contact Michigan Partners for Freedom (a grant project supported by the Council). Contact the project coordinator, Tammy Finn, at the Arc Michigan in Lansing. Write to her at:

Michigan Partners for Freedom
The Arc Michigan
1325 S. Washington Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910

Finn's toll-free telephone number is 1-800-292-7851, ext. 106. Her email is tammy@arcmi.org.

You may also wish to go directly to the source – your supports coordinator - and tell him or her you'd like to start the process of adapting your person-centered plan to include an individual budget.

Your goal: to achieve true independence in your life.

Two RICC members figure it out – go 'electric'!

When it comes to understanding the Internet, Ralph Moore is honest: "It's confusing and I'm no techie," he admits. But that hasn't stopped him from looking to the "world wide web" as a better way for Regional Interagency Consumer Committees (RICCs) in Michigan to communicate.

Moore is a member of the Tuscola RICC. He works for the Blue Water Center for Independent Living branch office in Caro, located in Michigan's Thumb region.

Moore and Kathy McGeathy, chair of the Genesee RICC in Flint, have been working on ways all the RICCs can use the Internet to improve (and in some cases, begin) communications.

The idea is to provide an electronic service where RICCs can exchange information on their activities, their successes, and the brick walls they encounter in the process of grassroots systems change. This activity would be independent of the DD Council's website (www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil).

Moore says he believes most RICCs have at least several members who use computers and have access to the Internet. He envisions creating a listserv.

What is a listserv? "To be a member of a listserv," Moore replies, "people just sign up by email. Each email sent to the listserv by a member is forwarded to all the other members." Only people on the listserv's list

receive the emails. "It's a great place to exchange thoughts, share ideas, and develop joint projects."

A chance to talk

Moore says except for RICC leadership development conferences, periodic regional meetings, and monthly Council/CRC meetings, RICC members don't really have a chance to talk with one another. "What's going on in your area? How did your new meeting format work? Have you added new members? How do you avoid losing members? The subjects for listserv conversations are endless."

Moore and McGeathy have sent out an email to RICCs and are taking the lead in trying to establish a RICC listserv, but they say they need input and interest from other RICCs' members. "A listserv will be a fast and easy way to let other RICCs know what is going on," says Moore, "but there has to be interest and people need to sign up." He asks RICC members and leadership to contact him with ideas and volunteer to sign on to the project.

You can reach Moore at:

Ralph Moore
Tuscola County RICC
146 W. Lincoln St.
Caro, MI 48723

Or call him at 989-673-3678. His email address is: bwcil@centurytel.net.

RFP for 2007 now posted on DD Council's website

The DD Council's RFPs (request for proposals) for fiscal year 2007 are available at the Council's website, www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil. Both are in the PDF format.

The first is RFP 2007A, Oral Health Needs Assessment for People with Developmental Disabilities. While Michigan has a comprehensive plan for

meeting the oral health needs of its citizens, the plan lacks needed information about some groups, including citizens with developmental disabilities.

Based on this information, RFP 2007A intends to improve the oral health status of people with developmental disabilities in Michigan by working with the Council's state-level partners on oral health issues.

Among the activities, the grantee will identify oral health resources, as well as gaps, barriers and other issues that affect the oral health status of people with developmental disabilities in the state. The grantee will also develop an action plan to promote responsive oral health public policy.

Deadline for submitting proposals to the Council office is 2:30 p.m., April 12, 2007.

The other RFPs for FY 2007 are RICC-Endorsed Community Mini-Grants. This is for one-year, local projects up to \$12,000. These projects must respond creatively to the needs of people with developmental disabilities in the area, plus have the endorsement of the area's Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC).

Deadline for submitting a proposal to the local RICC is April 4, 2007. The Council accepts a mini-grant proposal only after the chairperson or his or her designee signs the Proposal Cover Sheet.

For more information or questions, contact the Council's grants manager, Cheryl Trommater, at 517-334-7023.

Council committee and work group meeting minutes

Multicultural Committee

Nov. 13, 2006

Present:

Terrie Hylton (chair); Mae Golden (phone); Caryn Pack Ivey (phone); Jacqueline Day; Jim McGaugh; Mitzi Allen; Rick Van Horn; Pam Hall; Sophie Baker; Alicia Gonzales; Margie Hladki (phone).

Call to Order: by Chairperson Hylton at 1:11 p.m.

October's minutes approved on a motion by Golden and seconded by Baker.

Old Business

A. A review of other councils' outreach programs. States' councils that sent info range from Arizona to West Virginia. Allen said most states seem to be struggling with outreach programs and activities. About half responded to the query.

Our Multicultural Committee's survey of the various DD councils has prompted those councils to ask the Michigan DD Council for information on their outreach programs, Allen reported. Some activities examples are: Tennessee has diversity at the top of their agenda and is doing outreach; Ohio seems to have a lot of different projects, including outreach to Latinos; Nebraska has a very nice outreach publication, as does Oregon ("Embracing Diversity"), who also has a five-year plan, etc.

Allen will send out hard copies to Committee members of the items from the various states, to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Allen recalled the opportunity for the Committee to place an article in a state Spanish/English language magazine. Day will talk with the editor/owner.

The Committee also discussed the process of outreach promotion using articles and news releases. Baker suggested mailings to children in schools' special ed programs. Items can be sent to RICCs for publishing in

their local papers. The Committee could generate an ongoing series of informative outreach articles for publication around the state.

B. Diversity Focus articles. Thanks from Chairperson Hylton to those members who have provided articles for this series. Special thanks to Allen for all her efforts. The articles appear along with the monthly meeting notice mailing to Council members and friends and advocates. The articles' topics are intended to correspond with that month's Council meeting theme. Hylton wishes to now assign Diversity Focus article authors for the coming year. However, the topics are flexible according to what issues are front and center for any particular month. Articles should be submitted to Allen no later than the end of January.

The upcoming article topics, contributors, and months they will appear in the Council mailing are:

Leadership – Hylton – January
Legislative – Allen – February
Housing – Baker – March
Transportation – Hall – April
Education – Gonzales – May
Family Support – Golden – July
RICCs – Day – September
Health Issues – McSherry – October
Work Plans – Hylton – November

C. Diversity Coordinators. It is important to make them feel included in Committee activities. Concern was expressed about RICC outreach activities that border on pure entertainment, rather than inclusion.

What is the process for making people feel like part of the group? It can take a long time, even to get a person to attend a RICC meeting. First, perhaps, a diversity coordinator may wish to visit the person's meetings or activities....be a presenter or put up a display at a family day, etc.

Hylton suggested it may be workable to have one or several RICC diversity coordinators report to the Committee each month on activities. Several members agreed it is a good move and gives RICCs a chance to share experiences and ideas. It may help RICCs actually give ownership to their outreach projects, said Day.

Hylton will generate a letter to respective diversity coordinators inviting them to contribute on a given month to the Committee proceedings with a report on outreach activities.

Hall noted that the Committee never asks to be a presenter at RICC meetings and outreach programs. Allen suggested this idea be relayed to RICCs that they keep the Committee in mind for outreach contributions during meetings, programs, etc. Hall suggested doing a shortened version of the diversity coordinator training at the RICCs' annual outreach program, or provide a keynote speaker.....the Multicultural Committee is available as a resource, to meet with a group and provide discussion. Allen said if that is going to be promoted, the Committee must have a good program ready.

Allen and Hylton agree the Committee needs to be part of the RICCs' outreach planning, which comes in their work plans. Hylton said the Committee should review the RICC certification work plans. Hall added there are plenty of other meetings and conferences around the state where the Committee could make presentations. The Michigan Rehabilitation Conference came to mind. McGaugh suggested working with the Lansing Catholic Diocese. He will pass along information on this resource. He reminded the group that religion represents important and valued diversity, as well as race, etc. Hylton said religion adds another dimension and may also be a means to include people from diverse races and cultures. Day noted that people with disabilities are a minority and may have a different culture themselves.

D. Outreach information. Hylton referenced a document – “Getting Your Outreach Effort Started” that will be mailed to Committee members with the December meeting agenda. Topics in the short paper include “Know the demographics....” and “Identify your target audience.” Members reviewing the document agreed that it will prove useful. Hylton said it should be sent to the RICCs. The monthly meeting mailings include diversity coordinators, so they will receive the document along with the December agenda.

New business

A. Additions to Resource File. Hylton added “African-American Parent” magazine, plus several other publications. Allen will provide copies of the materials from other councils and they will go in the file. Golden provided

domestic violence multi-language materials and the name of a community relations officer from Homeland Security in Detroit.

B. Regional RICC meetings. Hylton discussed these ongoing meetings that feature Terry Hunt and Vendella Collins. She said it would be ideal if the Committee could be on the agendas for these meetings. Allen agreed, saying that the tenor of these regional meetings is outreach to communities in general and the Committee member attending could discuss cultural outreach at the same time..... "a good opportunity." Attending the meetings is a good example to take to the Council to show the work and objectives of the Committee.

The next meeting is at Grand Rapids on Nov. 30, followed by Flint on Dec. 11. Hylton asked for volunteers to attend the meetings. Baker will attend the Grand Rapids meeting.

Updates and announcements

Allen asked who was presenting the Committee's work plan to the Council tomorrow, Nov. 14. Golden and Hall will present.

Van Horn will invite Tony Wong, newly arrived at The Arc Michigan, to discuss his work with the Committee's grant – "Strengthening Relationships for Diversity" – and progress to date.

Multicultural Committee

Dec. 11, 2006

Present:

Terrie Hylton (chair - phone); Tony Wong; Mae Golden (phone); Caryn Pack Ivey (phone); Jacqueline Day; Rick Van Horn; Patrick McSherry; Pam Hall; Sophie Baker; Alicia Gonzales; Margie Hladki (phone).

Call to Order: by Chairperson Hylton at 1:11 p.m.

Introductions and approval of November's minutes (McSherry should have been listed as being present) and December's agenda.

Old Business

Diversity Focus article contributors for 2007 are listed in the November minutes. The topics, authors, and months to be distributed are:

Leadership – Hylton – January
Legislative – Allen – February
Housing – Baker – March
Transportation – Hall – April
Education – Gonzales – May
Family Support – Golden – July
RICCs – Day – September
Health Issues – McSherry – October
Work Plans – Hylton – November

Authors should submit their articles at least one month in advance but Hylton hopes all the 2007 articles will be submitted during the year's first quarter.

RICC certification: It's important that the Committee know what RICCs are doing regarding their outreach efforts. The Committee should keep up to date. Members discussed the "Getting Your Outreach Effort Started" paper.

Talking Points for the Legislative Reception in February: the Committee made several minor revisions to last year's talking points.

S. Baker reported on her diversity/outreach talk at the RICC regional meeting in Grand Rapids. Four or five RICCs were represented and attendees were receptive to Baker's ideas. The next RICC regional meeting is set for Jan. 10 in Lansing at the Clark Hill law firm.

Wong discussed the Committee's Council grant, "Strengthening Relationships for Diversity," which is just getting underway. Wong is project leader on the grant for The Arc Michigan. He wants to involve the RICCs in the grant project.

New Business

For additions to the Committee's growing resource file, McSherry submitted several resources from the "Global Festival" at Michigan State University

each November. Admission is free and the event attracts 4,000 to 5,000 people. McSherry showed a letter from the event's contact person, Cheryl Highstreet, who is willing to work with the Committee.

More discussion about RICC outreach....one RICC expressed concerns about meeting space when outreach efforts are successful and more people attend RICC meetings. Hylton suggested a RICC could hold an extra meeting for area minority groups. Committee members agreed that an important feature of outreach is making the first move to meeting by attending community meetings held by minority groups.

Program Committee

December 12, 2006

Present: Todd Koopmans, Theresa Arini, Melissa Anderson, Bryan Safranski (phone), Tammi Finn (phone)

Staff: Glenn Ashley, Cheryl Trommater

Issue: Welcome, Introductions.

Action: N.A.

Issue: Housekeeping: Minutes of the November 14, 2006 meeting.

Action: Todd Koopmans moved, Melissa Anderson seconded to approve the November 14 minutes. Motion carried.

Issue: RFP Review

Action: Michigan Oral Health Needs Assessment.

Cheryl explained the RFP specs, including the background for the project. The purpose of the project is determine the oral health needs of people with disabilities, get those needs included in the existing state Oral Health Plan, and advocacy to promote responsive oral health policies and services. A winning proposal would need to be a partnership between at least two organizations, one with expertise in assessment, and one with expertise in advocacy for implementation. The advocacy organization would also help in getting people to participate in the needs assessment.

The project would be 3 years, with year 1 focused on the needs assessment, for \$75,000. Years 2 and 3 focus on the advocacy, at \$50,000 per year. No match is required. We are hoping for a summer 2007 startup.

A question was raised about the involvement of people with disabilities on the state level planning groups. That is an expectation of the grant.

RICCs will have the opportunity to be involved in the focus groups for the needs assessment during year 1. They will be involved in advocacy in years 2 and 3.

Todd Koopmans moved to approve the Michigan Oral Health RFP. Melissa Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

This RFP and the RICC-Endorsed Community Mini-Grants are the only RFPs planned for this year.

Issue: Staff Report on Grant Projects.

Information: Self-Determination Projects

Michigan Partners for Freedom and Creating Meaningful Lives.

Allegan CMH is working with partners and CMH affiliations in SW Michigan and Wayne County. They provide training and TA to help agencies reorganize in ways that enable people with disabilities to move forward with self-determination in their lives.

The agencies and CMH affiliations have not found expert assistance to be available from other sources, at least not experts with the experience in organizational change needed to make self-determination happen.

Michigan Partners for Freedom was recently in Berrien Co (40 people!) and western Wayne Co. They have training scheduled in several other counties around the state. The MPF training content is geared to self-advocates learning about self-determination in user-friendly terms.

One of the biggest barriers is that people with disabilities and families are not aware that it is available for them. After they learn about it and go to their Supports Coordinator, they find that the CMH doesn't know how to do it. The Allegan project is able to provide that.

The Michigan Self-Determination Policy is hard to understand. Having it “translated” into simpler language helps self-advocates articulate it so the staff can understand it. MPF provides the consumers with tools.

Feedback from consumers is being used to revise the MPF materials to make them easier to understand.

MPF is getting requests for training for supports coordinators and other staff -- that is more like what Allegan offers. Having both aspects available is important, but the Allegan project ends this year.

In addition to the basic training, Michigan Partners offers training for local leaders who want to help increase demand for Self-Determination. It is a follow-up to the other training. It involves 8-10 advocates in a community, and each needs to bring an ally to help provide support. These have been very successful. When people complete the training, they have tools to encourage awareness and advocacy in their community. MPF contacts the point person in each community monthly to check on outcomes. This follow-up is a key to keeping the energy going. A local leaders’ conference is planned this summer to bring them together, report to each other, share stories, and identify what has worked.

They are collecting success stories to put on the web site, and to make available in a print newsletter.

Theresa has participated in the training. She thinks the best part was a brainstorming list of places they could go to do presentations, to community leaders, peers, service providers and so on, to garner community support, need to inform a broad base of people. Leaving training with a list was a big help.

Issue: Updates

Theresa requested an update on the Dissemination implementation, including the status of the equipment order.

The new state plan is available on the web site and in hard copy.

The PPR (Program Performance Report) to ADD (our federal funding source) is being prepared to be submitted by the end of the year. After that is completed, the Annual Report booklet, which is in a customer friendly format, will be published.

Committee budget has been \$1500. This past year we only spent \$195. The committee reviewed anticipated costs. The phone costs will be more this coming year. Money is also needed to reimburse consumer travel costs, when they are not members of the Council or RICC, or on days the Council does not meet. The committee has added several new members this year. Therefore, we are requesting that the \$1500 amount be continued. In addition, \$5000 has been tentatively allocated for the dissemination of products. In the past it was suggested that the dissemination money be included in the Program Committee budget.

The Voucher grantee roundtable met with Pam Hall, as requested by the Program Committee. She is very enthusiastic about working with them to get buy-in from the aging network. Grantees were given specific assignments to get to Pam by Feb. 1.

Issue: Legislative Talking Points

Action: The Talking Points are to be used by consumers in talking with legislators and policy makers.

Recommended that the Health Care section include the need for eye care as well as dental. In the past, money had been taken from eye care to fund dental care. If people are expected to work, good vision and teeth are essential to getting and keeping a job.

Issue: Adjourn

Action: Meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

Education Work Group

Oct. 25, 2006

Attendance: Patt Clement, Mark McWilliams, Glenn Ashley, Jane Spitzley,
Stacey Diekevers, Karen Massaro-Mundt

Phone: Andre Robinson

- 1.) Jane S. moved to accept the September 27, 2006 minutes. Mark seconded, and the motion carried.

2.) Universal Education Summit

Planning – update and next steps.

Lansing Community College west campus is available March 19, 26, 28, or 30. We agreed to go with a date Dr. Alice is available, if she is available. March 19 is our first choice. If she is not available, we can check on the April dates.

We want to avoid the Michigan CEC conference, which is usually the end part of a week in March.

Review updated list of possible invitees. We need more parents and people who were in Special Education. Stacey will get some more parent names, and ask Carolyn for names of people who were on the panel with Karen. Glenn will talk with Terry about RICC people. Patt will check with MDRC. Andre will check with his CIL and Oakland.

Groups may need different numbers of people. We want people assigned to groups before the event, so that they come prepared for the task of the day.

We want leaders in the field, agents of change who will be listened to by the powers that be. If the key person can't come, who would they want to represent them, and how can we involve them in the process or implementation.

Review draft duties of Team Leaders and Content Area Experts.

We need to contact people to find out if they are available, starting with Content Experts and Team Leaders.

Karen reminded us of the importance of modeling accessibility. Stacey would like to be part of working on that. This includes requiring materials to be submitted in advance, in an easily convertible electronic format.

3.) Advise Council on Education Issues

Proposed Council meeting calendar for 2007

The Council approved a motion to change the 2007 meeting dates so they would not conflict with the State Board of Education meeting. This did not happen when the Executive Committee established the calendar. Andre they had not heard whether or not the SBOE would continue to be the second Tuesday.

The Education Work Group is scheduled to do the presentation at the May Council meeting. Currently the professional preparation work group recommendations are scheduled for the May SBOE meeting.

4.) Collaboration with Grantees

Brief Update – Everyone Together project

The teleconference had about 80 people, and there were problems with reception at the different sites.

The newsletter was just printed and will be distributed shortly. It is sent to over 400 people.

Macomb and Oakland had their presentation on “Straight Talk” last night. Andre was on the panel. About 25 people attended, including Liz Bauer.

5.) Tracking of Policy Issues

IDEA Regulations have come out, and Mark is doing presentations in several locations. He will be happy to send the presentation to the workgroup.

Early Childhood Investment Corporation and Inclusion. Karen is part of the Great Start Collaborative in her county, and they are not addressing inclusion at all. Ros talked at a couple groups. Their response is that the ECIC has not told them they have to. They have many standards and indicators, and inclusion is not part of them. Mark reports they were in earlier drafts of the standards.

The MDE early childhood quality standards are a resource, they require natural settings and other items that support inclusion. The proposed standards were on the CAUSE website, and should be on the MDE site shortly. Mark will send a copy of the proposed standards.

State Board of Education

Seclusion and Restraint proposed policies are on the agenda for November. The schools, particularly ISDs have organized opposition to the standards. MPAS has issued a position statement.

Michigan Department of Education

Parent Education grant was awarded to the Arc Michigan, and they had their initial planning meeting earlier this week.

Alternative assessments and federal penalties. The scores will not be invalidated for this year, but tests will have to be rewritten to conform with the general curriculum. We have no further information about the penalties.

Autism State Task Force – postpone discussion until next meeting.

Detroit Public Schools issues

The last meeting was scheduled for Sept. 1. Andre was unable to attend.

6.) Announcements

Karen is leaving for Ghana tomorrow and working with the School for the Blind, and taking Braille writers and paper with her. She will be gone two weeks.

7.) Next meeting – was scheduled for 11/22, the day before thanksgiving. We agreed to reschedule it for Wednesday, December 6, from 10 to 1:00.

Housing Work Group

Oct. 17, 2006

Member present: Jacqui Day

Staff: Terry Hunt, Dee Florence, Cheryl Trommater

Jacqui agreed to chair the meeting in the absence of Chairperson Theresa Arini.

Oral Health RFP

Cheryl presented a very rough draft of the Michigan Oral Health Needs Assessment RFP. Cheryl asked for some clarification as to what the project is supposed to do. A needs assessment is one objective. She reported that Vendella Collins suggests we not assume that holding forums is the only way to get input. It may be better to leave it open and let the grantee decide the most effective ways to conduct a needs assessment. Cheryl will contact Sheila Semler to get more information about previous/current needs assessments.

Candidate Forum Debriefing

Listed below are some ideas and concerns we heard regarding the forum.

- What can be done to encourage candidate participation?
- Should we partner with other organizations?
- What can be done to discourage the loss of the audience as the day progresses?
- What can be done to get clearer, more specific answers?

- Should we give questions to candidates in advance so they could draft a response thus enabling their substitute to have an answer that accurately reflects the candidate's position? (Note: The Health Issues Work Group, with assistance from the Public Policy Committee and Michigan Protection & Advocacy staff identified key issues for each of the four positions. As soon as we knew who was coming from each campaign, we sent a confirmation letter, which listed those issues.)
- Should we have RICCs develop the questions and then have them ask the questions instead of the moderator?

Work Plan

The HIWG work plan for FY2007 was discussed with only minor date and editorial changes.

Housing Work Group

Nov. 21, 2006

Members present: Jacqui Day, Teresa Arini, Linda Potter, Paul Shahren

Members via phone: Shelia Semler, Dawn Robarge

Staff: Terry Hunt, Dee Florence, Cheryl Tromatter (via Phone)

The minutes from the October 17, 2006 minutes were accepted as presented.

Status of MI Oral Health Needs RFP

Cheryl Trommatter explained the Draft RFP. Cheryl wonders if years two and three seem unbalanced. Advocacy needs to be provided during those years. The big question Cheryl presented was, "Are there other things we want incorporated into the advocacy phase. Members offered the following suggestions/comments:

- We have a commitment from partners willing to advocate for legislative advocacy. A liaison with the MI Dental Association has been established. The grantee can build on these resources.
- An outcome should be added: more oral health providers providing service to PWD.

- The needs assessment should be a real people needs assessment based on real people.
- Add an outcome that will create a template, which includes an easy step-by-step plan identifying barriers and strategies to overcome them to be used at the local level. This information can be presented at the 2008 RICC Leadership Conference.

Faces of Medicaid

The committee went over a draft script of the narrative and offered several suggestions to strengthen the message of the importance of the Medicaid program.

Coming up with a name for the video is still a struggle. Paul Shehan suggested that we send a draft to the Michigan Hospital Association explaining this is a companion to your video. Then ask them for suggestion for a name and how our video can be incorporated with theirs.

Comcast cable offers PSA's before CNN news where individuals from the community can come in and give a 5-minute presentation on issues of concern to them. It was suggested that the committee check into the possibility of have a segment run on the "Faces of Medicaid."

Next meeting Tuesday, December 19th, 2006 from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm at the DD Council office.

Housing Work Group

JAN. 11, 2007

ATTENDEES: Nelson Grit (MDRC), Tony Wong (ARC of MI), Catherine Phelps (Bluewater CIL Caro office), Sue Hart (TDN), Mae Golden (TDN), Cheryl Trommater (Mi DD Council), Paul Palmer (Mi DD Council), Jacqui Day (CACIL), Frank Lynn (DAKC), Carl Fenner (TDN volunteer), Chris Hodgson (TDN volunteer)

AGENDA:

- DNM future Housing Workshop in February: Training will be held on March 1st, 2007 either at DN-M or Michigan High School Athletic Association depending on # of participants. We will get back with people with more information regarding costs, participation.
- MDRC Finding Our Way Home Steering Committee meeting on 1/31/07 at 1:30 pm: Nelson discussed a Homeownership workshop that he is collaborating with the ARC of Midland and Daryl Domke from the Michigan Homeownership Coalition that will be held in Midland on January 25, 2007. He also discussed the collaboration that he has with Rentlynx and MSHDA which has adopted as a housing locator service on their website. He also discussed a property management company called Medallion which will be there and it is thought of highly by MSHDA and Grand Rapids CLC network.
- ZSAM report: Frank Lynn reported that the group has met 3 times so far. All of the members have been assigned tasks that they are working on. Frank did a presentation at the Michigan Code Commission and he felt that they were very receptive to coming up with new codes concerning universal design/zero step. Sue is supposed to be attempting to meet with the new ED of CEDAM. Frank and Glenn Ashley did a presentation at the State Habitat for Humanity. Some members of the group said the Lansing chapter was not very receptive to universal design and that other chapters were. Tony said that he would work with Pam Schuster from UCP on Lansing Habitat.
- HDA (PA 182) trainings by MSHDA: Sue and Dave Bulkowski will contact Mr. Byrd and MSHDA regarding our involvement/participation in the trainings and forward out the proposal they have received to the group if appropriate.
- MCOAH presentation and choosing the Corrie Bair Building Inclusive Communities Award: Sue and Paul are working on the presentations. Mae had an excellent suggestion to get a committee together that will send out ballots electronically for nominations for the award. Sue will contact Norm Delisle about MDRC's expectations about the award. Mae, Linda Potter, and Cheryl Trommater said they would help with

being on the committee. The ballots will go out and we will have the decision made by the next meeting on February 8th, 2007.

Michigan DD Council Legislative Day is on 2/13/07 Register with your local RICCs by January 26, 2007.

Public Policy Committee

Jan. 9, 2007

Present

Andre Robinson, Jacqui Day, Jane Spitzley, Paul Palmer, Theresa Squires, Melinda Haus-Johnson, Judy Webb, Pam Hall, Robin Sefton, Tandy Bidiger, Dee Florence, Terry Hunt

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Andre Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Approval of Minutes from November meetings

Jacqui Day moved that the minutes from the December meeting be accepted as written. Paul Palmer seconded. CARRIED.

Federal Updates

The 110th Congress has converged on Washington. For the first time in history, a women, Nancy Pelosi, is Speaker of the House.

Congress is in the process of reviewing the DD Act. DD Council's throughout the United States are concerned that funding may be cut, due to the expenses of the war. A copy of the DD Act was given to committee members to review and make recommendations of any changes, etc.

State Updates

Single Business Tax

The Single Business Tax generates \$2 billion dollars to the general fund each year. With this tax expiring at the end of the year the state faces a major budget deficit for the

upcoming. It is essential that the legislature find a revenue neutral replacement for the Single Business Tax. There have been suggestions of creating a tax on services, such as, hair cuts, car repairs, entertainment, lawn care, etc.

Single Point of Entry

Governor Granholm signed PA 634, Long Term Care Connections.

Merit Scholarship Update

This was signed into law. Now all students will receive \$4,000 to attend college. The funds will be dispersed to students gradually during their college years.

Grant Updates

Informed Communities

Melinda Haus-Johnson stated that the first topic they have chosen to pursue is housing. A list of potential topics is being compiled and will be forwarded to the Committee to endorse. It was stressed that Medicaid is very important, especially medication. The Common Disability Agenda is also a great resource to find topics.

Oral Health Project

The RFP is out and the DD Council has gotten a few phone calls from providers with question concerning the project.

State Board of Education Update

1. Restraints & Seclusion Policies

The State Board of Education set a policy that *restraints and seclusion* should only be used in an emergency situation. Each school district may make their own determination as to whether they will follow the policy or not.

PPC Subgroup on Awards

The nomination forms will be widely distributed. Staff will be sending out the forms shortly. A committee needs to be formed to review the awards nominations.

Legislative Event Planning Committee

Bill Ballenger has been chosen as the speaker for the DD Council's Legislative Reception. He will address RICC members at 10:15 am, with the legislators arriving from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. A DD Council meeting will immediately follow the reception. There will be two guest speakers; Glenn Ashley from UCP will be speaking about the All Aboard grant and Darrell Pressley from Rossman and Associates will address how to get your message across to legislators.

Talking points on key issues will be completed and mailed out shortly.

Other

United Nations Disability Treaty

An international treaty that will give greater rights and freedoms to disabled people around the world has been agreed to at the United Nations.

The world's disabled population is estimated at 650 million. This is the first human rights treaty of the 21st Century and the UN hopes it will mark a significant improvement in the treatment of disabled people.

The United States have chosen not to sign on stating that the US already has comprehensive laws on disability rights. The Vatican has also chosen not to sign on.

Transportation Work Group

Dec. 14, 2006

PRESENT: MaLissa Schutt, Diane Kempen, Jacqui Day, JoAnn Lucas, and Paul Palmer

Staff

Dee Florence, Glenn Ashley, Tandy Bidinger

VIA PHONE:

Genesee: Gordon Siwula, Carl Fenner, Mae Golden, Tiffany McIntire, Gary Conway, Chris Hodgson, and Michael Moore

Kalamazoo: Eric Large

Kent: Rob Lewakowski

Wash: Scott Morrison, Mary Sheehan-Boogaard, Erin

Eastern UP: Jon Bronicheski, Charlene Klip, Jodi Tippet, Bobby Smart, Gregor

Muskegon: Karen Wynne

Legislative Update

Federal Congress is going on break, nothing to report.

The Michigan Legislators are in lame duck session, a couple pieces of legislation were approved yesterday:

- The Single Point of Entry (SPOE) bill was passed with 4 amendments, and needs to go back to the House for their approval.
- The Merit Scholarship program has been approved, with an increase to \$4000, and the good news for people with disabilities is that it is no longer tied to just passing a test (MEAP or ACT). You can get it if you complete 2 years of college, even if you don't pass the test.

Approval of 11/09/06 meeting

Postponed until next meeting.

TWG T-Shirt (design, etc.)

We had a good response to the last email. The last chance to order is today. We must have your name and shirt size. 50 to 60 people have

ordered them. To get the T-shirts, a person must have attended at least one meeting this calendar year.

Rob needs to send the clipart of a bus to JoAnn.

Local Advisory Committees

Lansing. CATA LAC met a week ago. CATA is internally looking for ways to do holiday service, so people with disabilities can get to needed places.

Kalamazoo LAC. With the millage being passed, the LAC will change to cover more of the system, not just the ADA parts. They will need more people with disabilities, and interested people should get their names in. Four people have been interviewed.

Grand Rapids. The Rapid changed the bus stop at the mall, making it much farther from the entrance. Advocacy efforts got it moved back to the front of the mall. There were several editorials in the paper. They are available on www.Mlive.com Kalamazoo resolved a similar issue last year.

Washtenaw. Erin went to the Milan transit meeting. There was a possibility the transit would go under, but routes and services continue unchanged. They are looking for someone to take over the system.

Flint LAC. The transit agency still does not have its interactive voice system working correctly. The system mis-records the address.

Gregor was refused a ride his job by both the transit and the dial-a-ride. They will talk with the transit director, Chuck, to find out the reason, and report back next month.

We will follow up with Traverse City on the taxicab issue.

It was suggested to start an "Action" file on LAC issues, to track results and strategies that were used to resolve them.

MDOT Funding Formula input (Let's Get Moving Coalition Group)

Let's Get Moving is looking at the Funding Formula, and how it might be rewritten to be more equitable (fair), and taking a recommendation to MDOT and the legislator. They are waiting for more recent numbers, the

2004 data, from MDOT. The plan is in place to get Act 51 on the legislative agenda for the first half of 2007.

DD Council Legislative Reception 2/13/07

We will be revising the "Talking Points" for transportation.

There will not be work group or committee tables. Bill Ballenger will be talking about new legislation. Workgroup members need to call the legislator to ask them to come.

Attendance is limited to RICC members and workgroup/committee members. Reservations are required.

Let's Get Moving Coalition Legislation Day 2/14/07

The meeting is at the Capitol. If you want to stay overnight, you can check with your RICC to see if there is money in the budget. People are to meet with their legislators at the Capitol. They will have hearts that say, "Transportation is like love, you need it 24/7."

An evening activity would be possible for people who are staying overnight on February 13, 2007. If you are interested, email or call the Council and tell us how many would be coming by January 31, 2007.

Input from RICC Regional Meeting

Three issues came up to bring to the workgroup.

1. Getting people to Lansing for the Legislative Event, would like workgroup to suggest ways to do this at the least amount of cost. The first step is to identify the people who want to come to the event, and then make inter-local agreements. The capacity of the room is a consideration for the Council event. The issue is more general than just this one day, it applies to many events. There is not enough money to get to events. The Council needs to consider putting more money into this.
2. Address the people who make the buses to produce more accessible seats. Many buses only have 2 seats. This needs to go to MPTA and Let's Get Moving, and talk with manufacturers who come to their conferences. Diane will contact them.
3. Work on overcoming barriers of county lines.

Input to MDOT's State Long-Range Transportation Plan

The plan is Michigan's vision for transportation for the next 25-30 years.

The input meeting was not on the bus route. More than one person brought it up. They hired a consulting firm, and the lead person was Gov. Engler's MDOT deputy director.

They are basing the plan on "Main corridors", essentially I-75 and SE Michigan. The plan ignores most of northern Michigan except I-75, and all of the UP west of Sault Ste. Marie. The plan mentions elderly, but not people with disabilities.

People need to send comments, so that they know we are a force. Most of the comments will come from trucking companies and business people. The website is: www.michigan.gov/slrc. You can submit comments on-line or by phone at 1-800-341-1828. Take the form to the RICC and get comments from as many people as possible, so help people submit them.

New Work Plan – Response to our presentation

The Council approved the TWG work plan for FY07. As a result, the WG was invited to make a presentation at the PIC for the DCH office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

One key is that Medicaid is supposed to pay for transportation to medical appointments, but it is seldom used. Please send stories about problems getting DHS to arrange or pay for transportation. This could be coordinated with a voucher system.

M.R.C. Conference Review/ Transportation Voucher Project Updates

MaLissa Schutt, Tandy Bidinger, Joanne Rackow, Susan Cloutier-Myers, and Mick Sheridan made the presentation. Grantees shared that the attendance was small, but the people were very interested, and they had a good discussion. A woman from New York who works with the blind was very interested.

We need more speakers, to cover more presentations, to speak locally, and so people don't always see the same faces.

Success Stories

Several stories were shared earlier.

Ottawa: *The millage for transit was approved.*

Kalamazoo: Portage has bike paths that make it easier for wheelchairs to get around. Two had steep inclines by a bridge, and they are rebuilding it to bring the grade to the 1/12 ratio.

Grand Rapids: *A Moslem women was not allowed on the bus with her face covered. The Rapid apologized and revised their policy.*

Lansing: Some people with limited English have problems getting hung up on by the people at the transit system. Is there a relay number that can be used for interpreting services? Karen Wynne will check on it.

A couple weeks ago the paper carried an article about new bus service between Lansing and St. Ignace without going through Grand Rapids, starting in February. The routes on the east and west sides of the state to the UP will continue. Indian Trails will be doing bus routes in the UP.

Co-Chair Recruitment/Nomination

Council by-laws are being revised to require that a Chair or Co-Chair be a Council member. Paul Palmer is a Council member, and can be the Co-Chair with Diane, who will continue.

Other

Teleconference Rules:

All RICCs are encouraged to participate in the TWG teleconference. Due to the large number of individuals interested in calling in and the limited funding allocated to the TWG teleconference, ground rules have to be set. They are as follows:

- The Teleconference site must be at a public place.
- There should be at least two consumers participating in the call.
- RICCs must RSVP in advance so that meeting materials can be sent to you in advance of the meeting.

Teleconference RSVP: Please remember that you must RSVP to participate in the TWG teleconference. This gives DD Council staff time to get the materials to the teleconference site in advance of the meeting.

Mobility Planning Services Institute, sponsored by Easter Seals, May 2007 in Bethesda, Maryland. Applications are due tomorrow. The Council has

been asked to come up with a team. Local areas, including Flint, have gone before. This time we would like a statewide team. Paul, MaLissa, Glenn, Eric and Diane were selected as the team. JoAnn will be an alternate. Colin Van may be available as an alternative.